



GP/3124.

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Date: September 9, 2002

STEPHEN F. GASS

Serial No. : 09/676,190

Examiner B. Ashley

Filed : September 29, 2000

Group Art Unit 3724

For : SAFETY SYSTEMS FOR POWER EQUIPMENT

RECEIVED

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

SEP 19 2002

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Sir:

**COMMENTS RESPONDING TO THE OFFICE COMMUNICATION
MAILED AUGUST 23, 2002 AND RESUBMISSION OF A
PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT FILED FEBRUARY 26, 2001**

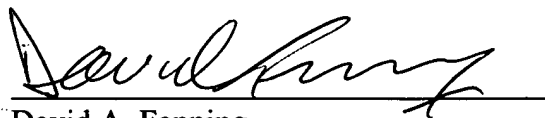
The Office Communication mailed August 23, 2002 stated that claims 1-20 were subject to a restriction and/or election requirement. However, a Preliminary Amendment mailed February 26, 2001 had previously canceled claims 1-20 and replaced them with new claims 21-34. Thus, the restriction requirement is incorrect.

Applicant telephoned and spoke with Examiner Ashley concerning this issue, and Examiner Ashley said that the Preliminary Amendment may have been lost. He suggested that applicant re-submit the Preliminary Amendment.

Accordingly, attached is a true and correct copy of the Preliminary Amendment mailed February 26, 2001. Also attached is a copy of the return-receipt postcard showing that the Patent Office received the Preliminary Amendment on March 2, 2001. Applicant requests that the Preliminary Amendment be entered with a filing date of February 26, 2001, and that examination proceed for claims 21-34.

Please telephone the undersigned if there are any questions.

Respectfully submitted,



David A. Fanning
Registration No. 33,233
Customer No. 27630
Attorney for Applicant
22409 S.W. Newland Road
Wilsonville, Oregon 97070
Telephone: (503) 638-6201
Facsimile: (503) 638-8601

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on September 9, 2002.



David A. Fanning
Date of Signature: September 9, 2002